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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/040,798	03/18/1998	VIKTOR KELLER	P5550	2256

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EXAMINER

WONG, STEVEN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2003

30

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/040,798

Applicant(s)

KELLER ET AL.

Examiner

Steven Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 7, 11 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claims 7 and 11, the language "the component" is indefinite as a plurality of components are defined in claim 1.

3. In claim 41, the language "consequent" is unclear. More appropriate language would be "subsequent".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 38 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sullivan et al. (5,356,941). Regarding claim 38, Sullivan discloses a process for making a ball comprising a core and cover, wherein the cover is made using RIM technique by injection liquid urethane (column 14, lines 50-56).

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Regarding claim 44, Sullivan discloses a golf ball comprising a urethane cover. The recycled reactants are process/method steps and are not relevant to the final product. See MPEP 2113.

6. Claims 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cavallero (5,759,676). Cavallero discloses a golf ball comprising a core and a polyurethane cover wherein the cover has a flex modulus greater than 80,000 psi and a thickness from 0.015 to 0.14 inch (column 7, lines 38-42). The reaction time and recycled reactants are process/method steps and are not relevant to the final product. See MPEP 2113.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 14-20, 23, 29-34, 37 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (5,334,673) in view of Sullivan (5,356,941). Regarding claim 14, Wu discloses polyurethane golf ball parts (core or cover). Wu does not disclose reaction injection molding. However, Sullivan teaches a game ball comprising a cover formed by reaction injection molding (RIM) (column 14, lines 50-55).

Regarding claim 15, the polyurethane is a reaction product of a prepolymer and a curing agent (column 1, lines 46-49). The prepolymer may include polyester or polyether (column 2, lines 45-47).

Regarding claims 16 and 17, the recycled materials are process/method steps and are not relevant to the final product.

Regarding claim 18, Wu discloses a cover made from polyurethane and Sullivan teaches the use of RIM.

Regarding claims 19 and 23, the final golf ball may be painted (coating) (column 7, lines 1-4).

Regarding claim 20, the core is solid (column 2, lines 38-40).

Regarding claims 29-31, the cover composition may further include zinc oxide, zinc sulfite, UV stabilizers, and/or optical brighteners (column 4, lines 15-22).

Regarding claim 32-34, the golf ball includes a core and cover. Either may be made from polyurethane (column 2, lines 35-40).

Regarding claim 37, uniform consistency at the seams and poles is an obvious feature of any golf ball.

Regarding claims 40, Wu discloses a process for forming a core with a cover and coating and adding indicia to the golf ball (column 7, lines 1-4). Sullivan teaches using RIM to apply the cover. One of ordinary skill in the art would have modified Wu in view of Sullivan by using the RIM process to achieve the desired properties.

9. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (5,334,673) in view of Sullivan (5,356,941) and Molitor (4,674,751). Wu in view of Sullivan does not disclose an ionomer blended with the polyurethane in the cover material. However, Molitor teaches a cover made from a urethane and an ionomer. One skilled in the art would have modified the cover by including an ionomer to improve the durability of the cover.

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10. Claims 39 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (5,334,673) in view of Sullivan (5,356,941) and "Bayer – RIM Part and Mold Design" (polyurethanes). Bayer teaches the use of glycolysis, a new way to convert polyurethane materials back to their original raw materials (page 43). One skilled in the art would have modified the invention of Wu in view of Sullivan by adding recycled material to decrease manufacturing costs.

11. Claims 14, 18, 21, 22 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cavallero (5,759,676) in view of Sullivan (5,356,941). Regarding claims 14 and 18, Cavallero discloses a golf ball comprising a core and a polyurethane cover. Cavallero does not disclose reaction injection molding. However, Sullivan teaches a game ball comprising a cover formed by reaction injection molding. Sullivan teaches a game ball comprising a cover formed by reaction injection molding (RIM) (column 14, lines 50-55).

Regarding claims 21, 22 and 26, Cavallero discloses a cover with a flex modulus of at least 80,000 psi (abstract).

Regarding claims 24 and 25, the cover has a Shore D hardness of 70 (column 6, lines 65 and 66).

Regarding claim 27, since the cover is harder (Shore D) than the core material the flex modulus will also be higher (column 8, lines 58 and 59).

Regarding claim 28, the cover includes two layers (column 7, lines 1 and 2). One of ordinary skill in the art would have modified Cavallero in view of Sullivan by using the RIM process to achieve the desired properties.

Double Patenting

12. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

13. Claims 38-41 and 44 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 40, 41, 43, 44 and 48 of copending Application No. 09/877,600. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

14. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

15. Claims 1-37, 42 and 43 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 4, 9-11, 13, 14, 16-39, 46 and 47 of copending Application No. 09/877,600. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they

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are not patentably distinct from each other because the present invention and the '600 application both claim the process of making a golf ball comprising making at least a core and a cover component by mixing two or more reactants. The instant application produces a product with a flex modulus from 5 to 310 kpsi in a reaction time of 5 minutes or less. The '600 application produces a product with a flex modulus from 1 to 310 kpsi in a reaction time of less than 2 minutes. Varying the reaction time of the product is an obvious modification of the '798 application that would promote the desired and/or optimal characteristics of the product.

Response to Arguments

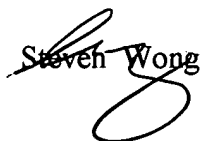
16. Applicant's arguments filed September 2, 2003 have been fully considered but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Wong whose telephone number is 703-308-3135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Vidovich can be reached on 703-308-1513. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

Steven Wong


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Primary Examiner
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SBW
December 11, 2003